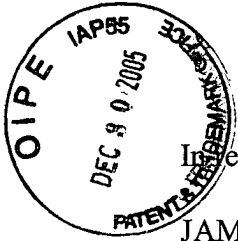


00169.001770.

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

JAMES ROBERT METCALFE, ET AL.

Application No.: 09/615,781

Filed: July 13, 2000

For: AUTOMATED DOCUMENT  
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Examiner: William L. Bashore

Group Art Unit: 2176

December 27, 2005 (Tuesday  
Following Observed Christmas  
Holiday)

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to further examination of the above-identified application for which a Request For Continued Examination has been filed, and in response to the final Office Action dated August 25, 2005, the period for response to which having been extended to December 27, 2005 (Tuesday following Christmas holiday) by the accompanying Petition For Extension Of Time, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

December 27, 2005  
(Date of Deposit)

John D. Magluyan, Reg. No. 56,867  
(Name of Attorney for Applicant)

  
Signature

December 27, 2005  
Date of Signature